

TESTIMONY
in support of SB 284: AN ACT INCREASING THE AGE FROM EIGHT TO EIGHTEEN
YEARS FOR AN INCOME-ELIGIBLE PERSON TO OBTAIN MEDICAL ASSISTANCE
REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS.

Rev. Dr. Jan Carlsson-Bull
Middletown, CT
March 10, 2022

Dear legislators—specifically members of the Human Services Committee:

I appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 284, “An Act Increasing the Age from Eight to Eighteen Years for an Income-Eligible Person to Obtain Medical Assistance Regardless of Immigration Status.”

I am the Rev. Dr. Jan Carlsson-Bull, retired Unitarian Universalist minister and past minister at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Meriden, CT, having retired in 2019. I am also a participant in the Recovery for All Campaign and a supporter of Connecticut Students for a Dream. During my ministry at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Meriden, I played a leadership role in this church becoming a sanctuary congregation. We hosted for close to two years a couple who at long last won a stay and remain in our state as contributing members of the Connecticut community. This congregation along with others led by colleagues across faiths continue a commitment to supporting our undocumented neighbors in myriad ways.

Who is our neighbor? Who are our children? We are all called to love our neighbors as we love for ourselves. This includes caring for our neighbors as we care for ourselves and caring for our neighbors’ children as we care for our own. It means doing all we can to ensure their well-being. Health care is a human right and a moral imperative. We are called not to “love our neighbors as ourselves, except for...” but to love our neighbors INCLUSIVELY. I can’t imagine that even one of you would take issue with this. Our undocumented children, meaning those among us who are undocumented ages birth through 18, are entitled to such care. You know that emergency room care costs far more than entrance to health care through the front doors of our medical caregivers—nurses and doctors and community health workers. In other terms, health care for our undocumented children is an investment both fiscally and morally. Passing SB 284 provides a means for all children meeting the economic requirements, immigrant status aside, to access and receive medical care as needed.

I urge you to vote enthusiastically and in favor of SB284 and encourage your colleagues to do likewise. Not only can we afford such coverage; we cannot afford NOT to provide such coverage.

Thank you for your support.

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